STREET MATTERS.

CHARLES STREET GRADING CAUSES. MORE DISCUSSION.

To THE EDITOR

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Road Committee Gets Back the Money Paid Out for the Work-Certificates of Indebtedness will be Issued-Mr. Walker Makes Some Inquiries About spruce Street.

Matters connected with the opening of new streets were a topic of lengthy discussion at the Town Council meeting Monday night.

Councilman Conian, Chairman of the Road Committee, asked that \$177 expended by the Road Committee of the previous year for work done in or ning and widening Charles Street be regimed to the funds of the Road Committee. As this was the first request of the kind ever brought before the Council, it led to a general talk over the method of pay-

Ing for such work.

Attorney Haifpenny stand that when the Council in compliance ith a petition undertook the opping and widening of a new street or tificates of indebtedness could be unded when eighty ing for such work. per cents of the k was completed; additions certificate could be issued when ninet we per cent. of the work was completed, and when the work was finished, proved ad accepted certificates for the bance were issuable, and then the entire issue of certificates were redeemable from the proceeds of bonds leaued, the bonds to run ten years and to be paid by the property benefited by the work. The certificates bore interest at the rate of six per cent.

Mr. Moore and some questions relating to the certificates and bonds. He wanted to know the certificates had to be paid out of the general tax in addition to the soner voted for road repairs.

Mr. Haifpenny replied that the certificates in the cer

cates were not paid out of the general tax. Mr. Moore then asked if the proceed-

ing was not similar to the method of paying for sewers.

Mr. Halfpenny replied that it was. Mr. Conlan then made a formal motion that the transfer he asked for bar made.

Mr. Moore asked why the cost of the Charles Street work was paid out of the rood account to the first place.

"Because my predecessor in the Chairmanship of the Road Committee made a mistake," Mr. Conlan replied.

Mr. Moore inquired if there was any other street than Charles Street in which the Road Committee's funds were involved, and he said that as he understood this proposed transfer, if it was made, the town would be compelled to Issue the certificates.

Mr. Walker took a hand in the discussion by asking how long the propertyowners would have to pay the Indebtedness for which the town assumed responsibility.

Chairman Peterson made a statement reviewing the entire Charles Street case, and he said that when the work was done the men employed by the Road Committee had to be paid and were paid. The matter was now in the hands of the Assessment Commissioners, he said, for final adjustment.

Mr. Conlan suggested that the Charles Street certificates be issued when the

Grace Street work was undertaken. After disposing of the Charles Street matter Mr. Walker brought up the

Spruce Street case. Edward G. Ward, one of the interested parties, Mr. Walker said, had asked him to inquire as to the status of the Spruce

Street work. Attorney Halfpenny stated that the parties who wanted Spruce Street widened had undertaken to secure consente and deeds from the property-own -. ers along the street whose property would be affected by the widening. Some of the owners made deeds of their property and the documents were held by him in escrow.

The attempt to get deeds from all the necessary property-owners had failed, and no decision had yet been reached whether the project of widening the street would be abandoned or whether It would be undertaken in accordance with the course prescribed by the statute.

Olive Street was another street named in the discussion as having been petitioned for to be opened.

THE LAW AND THE LADY.

TWO FORCES FEARED BY THE PUB LIC GROUNDS COMMITTEE.

Otherwise Overhanging Branches of Shade Trees Would be Lopped Off-Chairman Peterson Insists Upon It that the Public Grounds Committee Should Take Action-Mr. Walker Waiting for Mr. Farrand.

Just before the Town Council session closed Monday night Chairman Peterson demanded from Mr. Walker an explanation as to why the Public Grounds Committee had taken no action in the matter of trimming the low-hanging branches of trees along the streets of the town. The matter had been referred to the Public Grounds Committee at a previous meeting of the Council.

Mr. Walker gave three reasons for the delay in carrying out the directions of Council and complying with the request of a number of citizens. he first place be was doubtful about the legal rights of the Public Grounds Committee to undertake the himmin of the trees in front of and along private property. A private ownership in tees was recognized to a certain error and it was not clear to Mr. Walker at the Council could legally chop imps off the trees without the apperty owners' permission or contain. Another reason assigned by a fr. The was founded on the experies of the man Unangst, who undertook the same work last year, and tells some thrilling stories of his encounters with injuriated women who encounters with injuriated women who were incensed at what they regarded as high-handed vandalism on the part of the Councilman cutting limbs from

trees in front of their houses.

Chairman reteson was not disposed to accept either reason as excueable for delaying a piece of work in which so many people were interested. Men with high hats were indignant over the unceremonlous manner in which their tiles were toppied from their heads by contact with low-hanging tree branches. People who carried umbrelias in times of storm were provoked over the difficulties they had to encounter in passing under trees. People who did not carry umbrellas but ventured out after a sufficlent lapse of time for a storm to pass ever were r adered save a lug mud by a bit in the face from a wet bunch of leaves while passing under trees, and various other peop a had various other reasons for demanding that the trees be

Mr. Walker's doubt- on the legal phase of the matter were untounded as the town law gave the Council ample power in the premises. The overcoming of the wrath of icolignant females was a matter for the exercise of suavity and diplemacy

Mr. Walker dil raise a point, however, that expectated him largely from responsibility in the matter. The Chairman evidently assumed that Mr. Walker was Chairman of the Public Grounds Committee, but the latter pointed out that the honor belonged to Mr. Farrand and that he Walker only held second place on the committee, but he said he would consult with his colleague as soon as possible and arrange to attend to the matter.

Favors a Franchise

The East Orange Gazette urges the granting of a franchise to the Essex Cross Rallway Company by the City Council. It says:

As for the termini of the road: Must all roads lead to Newark? Can a cross country road, eleven miles long, betweep Bloomfield at one erd and Eliz . beth at the other, be fairly said to begin nowhere and end nowhere, simply because it does not lead to Newark? All objections seems to be summed up in the question of transfers, and in advancing this argument with such persistence the opponents of the road lay themselves open to the very natural suspicion that they are working in the interest & the North Jersey Company, a suplcton which we do not believe is just to any one of them. If no application for a trolley franchise is to be considered in this city unless transfers to the North Jersey lines are guarantee, we must decide that we will tell with none but the North Jersey appare, and that we will add ur numicipal assistance to strengthen hat monopoly. When we have established that principal, we will be absolute v in the power of that company, who, with all competition stilled by the City Council's action, will make such terms as it sees fit in providing trolley facilities in East Orange. The question of transfers can be adjusted only by utual agreement between two competity companies, and it is entirely beyind the power of either of those companies to grant them without the consent of the other. Naturally the estabilehed company will refuse to enter such an agreement, if by such refusal it can secure the overthrow of a rival com-

To suggest other routes or to insist that the franchise should be given to some other company is but to befog the lesue, as only one route is applied for. on which the necessary consents have. been obtained, and only one company is applying for the franchise.

We believe that a crosstown road will be of benefit to East Orange, and if the members of the City Council are of the same opinion they should grant the franchise applied for under the best terms that can be made, regardless of personal considerations.

Making Progress

The Essex Cross Railway Company made as important step forward Tuesday night, when the Irvington Village Counoil passed the company's franchise ordinance to first reading. The company has been hard at work in Irvington for the past eight months endeavoring to secure a franchise, and the fight hes been a flerce one, and Tuesday night's battle was a hot affair. - President Eppley of the rallway company got excited. Members of the Council got angry, and citizens who were divided pro and con on the question said hard thing about one another. The Town He was crowded, and Mr. Eppley had the time of his life in defending himsel and his company against the objections of Councilmen and citizens.

President Eppley spote to the Council on a number of offsetting from Union Avenue. "The Methodis Church," he said, "has no right protest and cannot legally do unish that intered into an agreement with us by which it is to receive in a year. We have the majority of fact. Union Avenue in spite of the many objections."

Continuing, his topley said: "If you want a road you will have to take it now for I will not fool around any

now, for I will not fool around any longer trying to please people. The road has met with opposition at every turn. Ekst in Cottage Street; next we were told go back to the ponds, but there the road would have struck some-body clicken coop, and we were knocked but in that direction. Then we were told that if we came down Cummings Street we would surely get through. There one man wanted the company to buy his two hundred feet of property. I think now that we will have to build a bridge over the town."

One member of the Council wanted to make the granting of the franchise conditional on the action of the East Orange Council.

"I will never vote for that franchise until it is granted in East Orange," said Mr. Sharp. "I have it from good authority that the road will never get through that city without giving trans-

"The ordinance has already been passed on its first reading in Bloomfield," said Mr. Eppley. "In the city of East Orange," he continued, "we have nad a hard time getting signatures. We had three miles of small lots from which to obtain them from owners. We were obliged to put in a new petition for a single track with turnouts in East Orange. That is what came up on Friday night. I believe we will get that franchise.

Councilman Frey said he looked to the Elizabeth end of the route more than the other "Connections with Elizabeth will be a great benefit for small homebuilders," he said. "We of the Second Ward want connection with Elizabeth, but the bone of contention seems to be with the Third Ward, which wants connection with the Oranges. I am in favor of passing Mr. Eppley's ordinance on a first reading, as it can be amended later."

Councilman Sharp looked on the Essex Cross Rallway project as a scheme to get a franchise and then sell out to

the North Jersey Company. "It may be a part of the North Jersey a few months after we grant you the

franchise," said Mr. Sharp. > "On the contrary, Mr. Sharp," replied Mr. Eppley, "we are going to buy out the North Jersey. That is the truth, too."

After some further discussion, on motion of Councilman Cooper the ordinance was introduced on its first read-

Councilman Tuttle was the only one

who opposed it. The hearing was adjourned to August 19, after the cheering had subsided. Then Mr. Eppley thanked the Council. and apologized to any one whom he had

A Hard Fight

For seven hours Friday night the East Orange City Council listened to protests against the granting of a franchise to the Essex Cross Rallway Company, and arguments in favor of it. The remarks were epirited and interest in the proceedings was kept at high pitch till the end. Mr. Jackson presided in the absence of Chairman Cardwell, and Mr. Gedney was also absent.

The first speaker after Clerk Long read the petition for the road was Edward K. Summerwell, who represented the people opposed to the trolley. He said that the Council should consider carefully the petition, that the consents should be scrutinized; that some people had signed and wished to withdraw. "I have personal knowledge that the majority of people on North Clinton Street are unaiterably opposed to the franchies," said Mr. Summerwell This is

perhaps a more serious matterthan you think. This is a narrow seet, only twenty-eight feet wide. Ow 500 children play in the street. Where will they go if the troiley got through the street?
What of the road well t is a Jim
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cannot give you transfers. Some peopie gave their coments believing that they would be give. If this franchise is given it til one be a short time be-fore the a the lersey will take it." Mr. Summerwell the er emphasized the fact that the projected pad, in his estimation, was only a scheme of the North Jersey Company, Alfred Duff of Amherst Street objected breauer thete was & large sews in that street. Frank

Baynon read a protest.

M. I. Street sent a communication stating the he had spent \$20,000 in buildings at Amherst Street, with the assurance hat no trolley would be built there. Heavy W. Aibers created a sensation and a considerable amount of laughter by stating that he had been approached so often to seeme his consent that he had to give his consent to get rid of the teprescentatives of the road. He said that he wanted to withdraw. Henry Withington fixed in the northern part of the city and wanted the trolley.

Thomas R Creeds made a long address, in with he argued against the troller. He said that when the matter was before the touted not -pring the opponents had fally beaten the company and that they now came in with the same retuiet, at the tight to a sin

Frances M. Papers, President of the road, said that the purpose who opposed the road sought to be ashamed of themselves, and that they lacked intelligence. He made a bug argument for the Load He said almost elanty per cent of the people wanted the trilley and that over 200 orbis of land were awalting development, treetge B. Daries also made a long at these twenting the road A M M H . present it as did Mar

vio Post I - a Ready favored in David Binghament that there were of perture to every that is expected in first Openige and that the tree of was project. The mand than the about a start posts alov. and the Should entitled the cold the Albert Last toward Several not then a first market of It was dea to be aller to white works had a A

TAX RATE 2.90.

DECREASE OF THIRTY-FIVE POINTS FROM LAST YEAR.

County Rate Advanced-Increase in Tax Ratables-Much Property Exempt from Taxation.

The County Board of Assessors met in the Court-house on Monday and fixed the county tax rate for the current year. Tax Commissioner William Harrington of Newark presided at the meeting and Seymour P. Gilbert of this town was chosen Secretary.

The total taxable valuations as returned by the Assessors of the several municipalities of the county footed up as follows: Real property, \$141, 13,207 personal property, \$10,112,001; exempnet valuations, \$230,197,24 and the resulting tax rate 50 38, or as it will ar pear in local tex bills 60 points, an in-crease of five points over last year

The local tax at for the coming year will be 2 ... a de rease of 35 points below last year's rate, a remarkably large decrease for one year. The local tax rate is divided as follows: County, 60 points; lighting, 20 points; police, 12 prote fire, 8 points; roads, 10 points; pool 6 points; water, 22 points; bonds and in rest, 38 points; incidentale, 12 points; chools, 72 points.

The return of sinations made to the County Board Assessors for this town were as follows: Real property, \$4,352,-450; personal, \$763,000; exemptions to veterans and firemen, \$68,700; total net valuations, \$5,016,750, an increase over last year of \$155,829. The returns show 2 813 separate pieces of property assessed. Several causes operated against an increase in the amount of personal valuations this year

The Assessors had to make a large allowance for real property exempt from taxation, such as school and church property, parks and other lands used for public purposes, and the property of charitable institutions. The exemptions thus allowed foot up on valuations \$493,750.

fue large reduction in the tax rate will prove gratifying to property-owners and all others interested in the welfare of the town. Last year it was rather humiliating to see nearly every other municipality in the county making reductions in the tax rate, while the rate of this town had to be marked up to unprecedented figures. This year the tables are turned. The Bloomfield rate goes down, while the rate in many nearby municipalities will be marked up. Newark leads off with a rate of 2.22 for this year, an increase of 8 points over last year.

The tax rate in Glen Ridge borough this year is approximated at 2.70. The borough valuations reported to the County Board were as follows: Real, \$1.557.000; personal, \$195,500; exemptions, \$22,500; net total, \$1,830,000.

NEARBY TAX RATES.

REMARKABLE CHANGE IN THE SITUA-TION SINCE LAST YEAR.

Then This Town's Rate West Up While that of Other Places West Down-Local Tax Payers New have the Laugh on Their Neighborn.

The tax rate for Believille for the current year, as figured out by Assessor William Connolly and Collector A. H. Osborne, will be the same as that of last year, \$2.66 on each \$100 of valuation. The general township, however, shows a decrease of eleven points, and but for an increase in the county rate and a special assessment for the local Health Board a much decreased rate would be shown this year.

The increase in the Newark tax rate from 2.14 to 2.22, and the decrease in the local rate from 3.25 to 2.90, fully substantiates the argument made by the anti-annexationists before the Legislative Committee at Trenton last winter, when it was declared that such a result was bighly probable.

In Union County along the less of the railroads that traverse that duty are a number of towns that are somewhat similar in conditions and aspirations to this town. The tax rites in those places for the current year is as follows:

Clark, 1.25; Craifold, 2.68; Elizabeth, 2.96; Linden township, 2.16; Fanwood townships, 2.16; Fanwood booton, 3.50; Linden township, 1.68; Linden borough, 1.92; Mountairside, 2.30; New Providence township, 2.32; New Providence borough, 2.40; Plainfield, 2.51; Roselle borough, 2.40; Roselle Park, 3.28; Springfield, 2.40; Susmit, 2.91; Union, 4.99; Westfield, Summit, 231; Union, 133; Westfield,

The East Orange City Council held a special meeting Tuesday night and fixed the tax rate at 27: This is seven points higher than last year, five points tell g due to the increase in the county rate. Notwithstanding the increased expenses of the city and the amount spent for emalipox the local rate was kept down because of the large increase

It is anticipated that the Gien Ridge borough tax rate for the current year will be 2 70 The Montclair tax rate will be 2.80.

"he same as last year.

The West Orange rate is 2.75, an increase of ten points. The local raise was caused by increased expenses for schools, including the building of a new school, and by smallpox.

The city of Orange rate will be 2 32, an increase of "Artern points over last

South Orang to nable rate will be 2.50 and South that at 1 col Irvington rate will be 2 2 , an increase of twenty point- over last year.

There appears to have been a com-"plete turn of the takes the year between this town and the other municipailties in the county in the matter of the tax rate. Last year the laugh was on Bloomfleid when its tax rate soured upward, while heatly every other place In the county showed a reduced tax rate. _ It is Bloomfield's turn to-smile now.



